

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of the claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve for a bus bar connection, having inner and outer electrically conductive surfaces, that is used to connect two switchboard sections of a gas-insulated switchboard system, wherein:

the connecting sleeve is an insulating, elastic material that is in the form of a tube;

the outer, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve is grounded;~~and~~

the connecting sleeve has a sensor in the form of a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material and electrically insulated from the inner and outer electrically conductive surfaces of the connecting sleeve; and

the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.

2. (Previously Presented) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sensor has a sensor surface that is tangential to the outer surface.

3. (Previously Presented) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sensor has an edge area that overlaps the outer surface, at least in part.

4. (Previously Presented) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sensor is connected to a plug connector that is positioned in an opening that is surrounded by the insulating material.

5. (Previously Presented) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 4, wherein the plug connector can be connected to a mating element; and in that the opening is matched to the outer shape of this mating element so as to form a dust-proof plug-type connection.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) Gas-insulated medium-voltage switchboard system, with at least two switchboard sections that are connected to one another through a bus bar connection that incorporates the connecting sleeve of claim 1.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

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END OF CLAIM LISTING